

Gazette Supplement, Dec. 8th, 1885.

The Gazette's Paris Letter.

PARIS, November, 1885.

THE ELECTIONS.

EDITOR GAZETTE:—The outcome of the general elections is so far, a check and a sublime warning for the Republic. It has lost touch with the nation, and for the first time since 1871, the charm of continued success has been dissipated. It would be astonishing, indeed, more than surprising, had it been able to pass unscathed from the attacks of the united-disseminated monarchists; the vagaries and violence of the extremists; the absence of plan and foresight on the part of the moderates, and the total want of discipline, united to the predominance of personal ambitions and self-interests, among all ranks of Republicans.

The imposing gain of the royalist-Bonaparte coalition, does not imply any immediate restoration of a monarchy. The moment they demand "under which King, Germany?" their common battle-cries, good for democracy only, vanishes into air. But they will remain a very large fly in the Republic's pot of ointment; a disagreeable shadow, falling across its chamber door. Future Cabinets must count with that robust minority, and the latter, when united to the radicals on a division, can overthrow any Ministry. Then the Republic has no men; mediocrity still reigns, but which can be partially remedied by a phalanx of men disciplined as a majority ought to be, and animated with a spirit of toleration and practical sagacity.

THE RADICALS.

The radical denunciation Jules Ferry as the cause of the Republic's misapprehensions, while the opportunist reform, it is all the fault of the radicals. One fact is certain, Jules Ferry's majority has been sent to the limbo of the old moons, and those repulsive joints of the radical tail, including Rochefort, the communists and anarchists, have been laughed into insignificance. Their roars did not come up to the standard light of the lion; among ladies, bottom the roarer was well known. However, it may be said, as Mirabeau observed of the utopian Sieyès, the silence of the extremists would be a public calamity. The Republicans have come out of the fight weakened; they have exhibited their disintegration; it remains to be seen, will they profit by the lesson, by united action, steady and solid voting, when the second ballots will come off, and encounter adversaries flushed by unhoped-for success. The country by its vote, has shown that it considers the Republic has been badly administered; that it is sick of the quarrels of persons and of all attempts to discount unripe questions. It demands the postponement of that imitating project, separating Church from State, the revision of the Constitution, and the launching into adventures. The constituencies abhor all that is revolutionary, all cloudy promises, all social transformations by irrevocable programmes. They demand a limit to aspirations; they call for a phalanx of men disciplined as a majority ought to be, and animated with a spirit of toleration and practical sagacity.

AT THE POLLS.

Never were elections freer; no pressure was exercised; they followed no lead; there was neither a Gambetta to show the road, nor a de Broglie to block the way; there were no Bonapartists to manipulate the ballot boxes, no communists to destroy them. The poster addresses of the candidates fell flat; their length and color only, attracted. Those most read were from Berton, who since sixty years is claiming to represent humanity, and annually invites the Queen of England to his dinner parties; and Maronin, who promised to secure tobacco free for all smokers. Another eccentric held out the bait of remunerating all citizens who attended public meetings, after the Greeks of old, who were paid three obols, as token of presence. The papers too, wrote wildly; they had no eyes to see, or ears to hear; hence, the multiplicity of personal conflicts.

As a general remark the voting was most orderly. There was no drunkenness; there were no roughs. Many workmen accompanied by their wives and children, prosaically round the polling offices, to know the result. Before the bureau of a royalist journal, there was a momentary squeezing, and a discharged revolver in the crowd, the two bullets lodging in the wall, imparted the sensational relish to the gathering. The citizen who placarded the counsel to vote for every candidate in the hope that one good one would be found, was warmly congratulated.

THE RESULTS.

The Ministers having been electorally killed, or mortally wounded, will necessitate the formation of a new Cabinet—a result not unexpected, but arriving earlier than was anticipated. The Chamber will be convoked in the early days of November, and then must come the tag of war. The most knotty question on the cards is, not relinquishing the colonial blunders, but how meet the deficit in the revenue and the disorganized finances of the country. There will be the election of M. Grévy's successor, resulting most likely, in his re-election, when he can later resign. But when the Congress meets and it is a "fortuitous concurrence of atoms" decides to revise the Constitution, a veritable Pandora's box will be opened. The uni-nominal, or *seulement de liste* plan of voting, has certainly the drawback of multiplying candidates, and rendering the counting of the votes a serious mechanical difficulty. In the case of seventeen polling booths in the city, the scrutators could not obtain volunteers to count the tickets; young girls of fourteen had to be secured, and even the aid of the Christian Brothers. In 1871, it took three weeks to count the bulletins of Paris, and at last, the result had to be approximated.

THE BULGARIAN QUESTION.

There is now a sort of relative apathy respecting the Bulgarian question, because it is left, if the Emperor has decided to finish, this time for good, with European Turkey, *à la mode* Poland, there is nothing to prevent them. For we will not move a finger, nor England cannot. But the Mideast will die game not the less, and the Sultan is not inclined to accept the guillotine by persuasion. If any of the Mideast in the East were in a position to overthrow Turkey, there would no longer be an Eastern question, and the sword would cut the Gordian knot. When one can kill the sphinx, there is no more necessity to give attention to the enigma. One little state is not in a condition to dominate the others, who will oppose her hegemony. There is no unique matter, and present, possible in the Balkan peninsula, save Turkey. Austria will never permit the Slav to extend to the Adriatic—if she can prevent it.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

A gentleman who has just returned from Russia, has informed me the Czar is not in a position to open the Eastern question, still less to attack England on her Indian frontiers. The Chinese wall of exclusion, and the corruption of officials, are doing more rapidly the work of destruction, or decomposition, than the nihilists. The latter are not at all inactive; they are at work; the whole strength of their organization is devoted to a propaganda in the army. It is by filling the ranks with their proselytes that they hope to coerce autocracy into liberalism, or provoke a collapse and a smash. The time is not distant, my informant added, when the

Czar must exile entire regiments. He has a precedent for that in Paul I. One of the latter's sons, aged six months, was Colonel of a Dragoon regiment, whose officers had been placed under arrest on suspicion of conspiring. Paul ordered the juvenile Colonel also to be imprisoned; such was done, and baby, cradle and nurse were lodged in a casemate.

LATE HAPPENINGS.

M. Maurin, the stipendiary magistrate, who was shot while presiding on the bench in the suburbs of Montpellier, is expected to recover. The assassin, a navy, exasperated at the law's delays, fired a pistol: one ball carried away some of the gentleman's teeth and splintered his jaw; the second ball traversed his hand and arm.

Near Pontoise a man with a handcart stopped before the Mayor's office, and uncovering the contents displayed the body of a man with throat cut from ear to ear. He said he found the cart on the highway and trundled it to the Mayor. He was thanked, but arrested till more light be thrown on the mystery.

IN THE LA CHAISE.

Cemetery on Saturday, one of the guardians discovered that some graves had been robbed of their flowers; following up his search, he remarked fresh foot-prints, and later, the missing flowers in a small heap, serving as a cover for a heart, presumed to be that of a human being, and still containing some fluid blood, and pierced with several large nails.

IN THE TOILS.

The Chevalier de Sartini has at last come to grief. He was the most elegant chevalier—but of *infamie* that has appeared since a long time. He speculated in the vanity of human wishes: his speciality, not exactly a novelty, consisted in painting off bogus decorations on simpletons. There was no "order" almost that he could not obtain—for a client, for a good consideration. It appears he had some footing in society, and on the day of Gambetta's funeral he managed to be installed between the English and Russian ambassadors. From that moment he "struck off." He Marvellously who has to pronounce, what the public prosecutor demands, the severest penalty of the law. Another swindle coming up again is, the obtaining of bogus diplomas; brains are not required; money secures the royal road to learning.

The New Dublin Steam-Packet Ireland.

The Holyhead and Kingstown sea-passage can now be traversed in two hours and three-quarters. The new mail steamer Ireland has been constructed by Messrs. Laird Brothers, Birkenhead, for the City of Dublin Steam-Packet Company, which has also made great improvements in its other steamers, the Ulster, Munster, Leinster, and Connaught, established some twenty-five years ago. The Ireland, is esteemed the fastest seagoing steamer afloat, having attained twenty-one knots an hour, or between twenty-four and twenty-five statute miles, in her trial run across the Channel. The distance in a straight line from Holyhead to Kingstown is fifty-six knots; but, however well a ship may be steered, it is impossible for her to keep an absolutely straight course, and the distance actually traversed must have been increased accordingly; yet taking no account of this, and reckoning the distance at fifty-six knots, we find that the ship must have maintained an average speed of 20.2 knots per hour from point to point; a performance which is without a parallel in rough water steaming. The actual time was 2h. 46 min. 15 sec., with a mean of 6337 indicated horse power, under draught moderately forced by fans, the mean pressure of steam being 27 lb., and the engines making 27.17 revolutions a minute. Another trip, under natural draught without fans, gave an average speed of 18.9 knots, the whole time being 2h. 57 min. 45 sec. The Ireland was designed, built, and fitted by Messrs. Laird. She has a length over all of 380 ft., between perpendiculars 360 ft., with 38 ft., beam, and a depth in hold of 19 ft. 3 in., her tonnage being 2590 tons old measurement. She is fitted with jet condensing oscillating engines, capable of developing 5000-horse power with boilers working under natural draught, and at least 6000-horse power with the boilers under air pressure in the stokeholes. The ship is built entirely of Siemens steel, in order that the greatest strength may be secured with the minimum of weight, and is subdivided by steel water-tight bulkheads to the upper-deck into eleven compartments, one bulkhead between the engine-room and each boiler-room, so that the engines and each set of boilers are in separate compartments. In appearance the Ireland most resembles the present mail-packets, having a clipper stem with shield head, and a short bowsprit, a light elliptical counter, two raking masts and two funnels, a spacious bridge deck amidships, a long poop aft, and hurricane-deck forward. The passenger accommodation is in arrangement the same as in the Company's present steamers as now fitted, with every comfort, and luxury. In the poop is a saloon 80 ft. in length, panelled in polished hard wood, with state cabins at each side. On the deck below is the spacious dining-saloon, richly decorated in gold and colour, with a commodious serving-room and pantry. Forward are the upper and lower ladies' saloons, which are elegant apartments. The saloons have a height of 10 ft. 6 in. from deck to ceiling; the stairways are roomy and well arranged, the ventilation and light being all that can be desired; forward is additional sleeping accommodation for first-class, so that in all there will be accommodation for 200 first-class passengers. Handsome and com-

venient smoking-cabins are provided amidships; a spacious saloon and cabins forward for second-class. The arrangement of pantries, lavatories, and such offices is extensive and complete. The upholstery work has been furnished by Messrs. Todd, Burns, and Co., of Dublin. The ship is lighted with the electric light. The engines, supplied by Messrs. Laird, are oscillating, of the double piston-rod jet-condensing type, with two diagonal air-pumps.

At the expiration of the late Government mail contract, the public interests demanded an accelerated service by sea and by land; and the result is that a contract for the improved train service has been undertaken by the London and North-Western Railway Company, while the sea service is again entrusted to the City of Dublin Steam-Packet Company. The combined effect of this new arrangement, which came into full operation on October 1, is to bring London and Dublin within ten hours and a half travelling time.

Shipping.

Notice!

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J. ENA, Secretary. T. R. POSTER, President.

Honolulu, January 8, 1885. 1943

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